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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 39 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mr. Almore Alphonse Thompson upon being named the 1998-1999 Tennessee State University College of Education Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary professionals who have dedicated their careers to making higher education a relevant and productive learning experience; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Almore Thompson is most assuredly one such superlative educator who is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, via the approbation of Tennessee State University's students, faculty, and administration, Mr. Thompson has been honored as Tennessee State University College of Education Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson began his illustrious academic career at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree, with an emphasis in Social Sciences and Physical Education; and

WHEREAS, illustrative of his love of sports, he lettered in football, and was Captain of the Bruins' Rose Bowl team, he also lettered in wrestling and rugby; and

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WHEREAS, he then furthered his education by attending California State University at Long Beach, earning a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 1970 and a doctoral degree in Educational Administration from UCLA in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1988, he received his J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in law school, he was a valued member of Phi Alpha Delta International Law Fraternity, Vanderbilt's Bar Association, the Black Students Law Association and a law student member of the American Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, after long hours of diligent studying, Almo Thompson successfully passed the Tennessee Bar Examination on his first attempt in February 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson began his professional career as a Social Studies and Mathematics teacher in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, he subsequently served as Associate Dean of Students, Director of Educational Opportunities Program and Co-Director of the Academic Laboratory Program for the University of California at Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, he then served as Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Chairman of the Black Studies Program for Portland State University in Portland, Oregon; and

WHEREAS, he contributed significantly to the Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital and Charles R. Drew Post-Graduate Medical School in Los Angeles, serving as an Education Evaluation Specialist; and

WHEREAS, he has been a member of the Board of Research Advisors and Readers at the Walden University, Institute for Advanced Studies since 1984; and

WHEREAS, currently, he serves with cheerful readiness and keen insight as a Political/Educational Consultant for the Tennessee Black Health Care Commission, as a

professor in Education Administration at Tennessee State University and as a practicing attorney in the greater Nashville area; and

WHEREAS, he has been deservedly honored for his professional excellence by his inclusion in numerous scholarly publications; and

WHEREAS, he presently serves as Chair of the NAACP Legal/Prison Works Committee and he has been the Chair of the Education Committee for the Nashville Regional Minority Health Coalition Council since 1997; and

WHEREAS, he is the Tennessee State University Campus Representative for the National Collegiate Awards Program; and

WHEREAS, he is the four-time recipient of research and/or educational fellowships in national competition; and

WHEREAS, he was honored by The Carter G. Woodson Association for his intensive study of Negro life and history, which is embodied in his article, "Pre-Columbian Black Presence in the Western Hemisphere"; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Thompson received a commendation from the Mayor of Memphis for his astute services to Memphis; and

WHEREAS, he has been selected as an Honorary Member of the Black Caucus of the Tennessee General Assembly for his many legislative contributions, and he presently serves with distinction as a consultant to the Black Caucus; and

WHEREAS, he developed the first national scholarly journal, *Northwest Journal of African and Black American Studies* that was published at Portland State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson has co-authored *More Female and Minority Principals Are Needed: We Must Stop Racial and Gender Biases; Layman's Guide to the Tennessee Children's Plan"; A Bird's Eye View of the TennCare Partners Program* and many other insightful publications; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson should be saluted for his absolute dedication to his students and his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate Mr. Almore Alphonse Thompson upon being named the 1998-1999 Tennessee State University College of Education Teacher of the Year; commend his superlative career as an educator and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.